

What is claimed is:

1. A resource management system, adapted for use with a communications network, said resource management system comprising:

a first resource request monitor, adapted to monitor at least one resource request transmitted by a communications unit of said network, said resource request including information representing a respective amount of communication resources of said communications network being requested, said first resource request monitor being further adapted to provide first information representing said amount of resources requested by said resource request;

a second resource request monitor, adapted to monitor an amount of communications resources being provided to said communications unit in response to said resource request, and to provide second information representing said amount of said communications resources being requested by said resource request; and

a coordination center, adapted to compare said first and second information to determine whether said amount of communications resources provided, as represented by said second information, equals said amount of communications resources requested, as represented by said first information.

2. A resource management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said coordination center is further adapted to provide an indicator when said first and second values are not equal.

3. A resource management system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said indicator includes a credit or charge on a bill for said resources requested.

4. A resource management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said coordination center is further adapted to prevent said communications unit from transmitting another resource request when said first and second information are not equal.

5. A resource management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein: said communications unit includes an earth-based terminal.

6. A resource management system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an access monitor, adapted to maintain a record of said respective amount of resources requested; and

a resource grant monitor, adapted to maintain a record of said second information.

7. A resource management system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said access monitor is included at a network service provider or a wholesaler.

8. A resource management system as claimed in claim 6, wherein resources being requested include billing records.

9. A resource management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said coordination center is further adapted to receive and compare said first and second information after said first resource request monitor has monitored a plurality of said resource requests and

after said second resource request monitor has monitored said amount of communications resources being provided in response to said plurality of resource requests.

10. A resource management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said coordination center is further adapted to receive and compare said first and second information at predetermined intervals of time.

11. A method for monitoring use of communication resources in a communications network, comprising:

monitoring at least one resource request transmitted by a communications unit of said network, said resource request including information representing a respective amount of communication resources of said communications network being requested;

providing first information representing said amount of resources requested by said resource request;

monitoring an amount of communications resources being provided to said communications unit in response to said resource request;

providing second information representing said amount of said communications resources being requested by said resource request; and

comparing said first and second information to determine whether said amount of communications resources provided, as represented by said second information, equals said amount of communications resources requested, as represented by said first information.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:
providing an indicator when said first and second values are not equal.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said providing step provides said indicator as a credit or charge for said resources requested.

14. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:
preventing said communications unit from transmitting another resource request when said first and second information are not equal.

15. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:
transmitting said resource request from said communications unit which includes an earth-based terminal.

16. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:
maintaining a record of said respective amount of resources requested; and
maintaining a record of said second information.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said record maintaining steps each include maintaining said records at a network service provider or a wholesaler.

18. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:
maintaining a record of said respective amount of resources requested being representative of billing information.

20. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:
receiving and comparing said first and second information at
predetermined intervals of time.

20. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:
receiving and comparing said first and second information at
predetermined intervals of time.